

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 East Texas Ag Services - Removal Polrep
 Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region VI

Subject: POLREP #1
 Initial
 East Texas Ag Services

 Athens, TX
 Latitude: 32.2064500 Longitude: 95.8558280

To: R6 PolRep TX, Response and Prevention Branch

From: Mark Hayes, Environmental Engineer, OSC

Date: 5/30/2014

Reporting Period: 5/29/2014-5/30/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date: 5/29/2014	Start Date:	5/29/2014
Demob Date:	Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:	State Notification:	
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

On 29 May 2014 at approximately 1730 a fire started in a building located at 105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas. The building is owned by East Texas Ag Services and reportedly housed up to 70 tons of Ammonia Nitrate. Other products stored at the facility include Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Potassium Magnesium Sulfate (K-Mag), Potash, and some non-combustible filler material. Athens Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator issued an evacuation order for residents and business occupants within a 5 block radius. EPA mobilized the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and Superfund Technical Assessment Response Team (START) to investigate.

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Potential detonation of the ammonium nitrate is imminent due to smoldering and structural damage from a fire.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Preliminary air monitoring results showed no elevated readings within designated evacuation areas.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

On 29 May 2014 at approximately 1730 a fire started in a building located at 105 W. Larkin St., Athens, Henderson County, Texas. The building is owned by East Texas Ag Services and reportedly housed up to 70 tons of Ammonia Nitrate. Other products stored at the facility include Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Potassium Magnesium Sulfate (K-Mag), Potash, and some non-combustible filler material. Athens Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator issued an evacuation order for residents and business occupants within a 5 block radius.

On 29 May 2014 at approximately 2040 hrs., EPA deployed START 3 to assist with air monitoring activities and photo and written documentation of site operations. At approximately 0010 hrs. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and EPA established 4 quadrants centered around the fire location for the purpose of continued air monitoring operations throughout the response. Each quadrant was approximately 1/4 mi. x 1/8 mi. and extended beyond the 5 block radius evacuation zone. START 3 conducted air monitoring activities throughout all 4 quadrants with monitors equipped with sensors capable of detecting Ammonia (NH₃), Nitrogen Oxide (NO), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Lower Explosive Limit (LEL), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Oxygen (O₂), and Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S). Data collection was completed by START 3 for 25 locations throughout the 4 quadrants at approximately 0400 hrs. on 30 May 2014. Results from air monitoring indicated no significant readings above action levels. TCEQ's response contractors and the Civil Support Team (CST) conducted air monitoring for NO, NO₂, NH₃, Chlorine (Cl₂), particulate matter, and VOCs throughout evacuated areas. Results are pending.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

START 3, TCEQ contractors, and CST conducted air monitoring throughout the air monitoring quadrants established by EPA and TCEQ.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

START 3 will continue to conduct air monitoring activities throughout all 4 quadrants with monitors equipped with sensors capable of detecting NH₃, NO, NO₂, VOCs, LEL, CO, O₂, and H₂S.

TCEQ contractors SWS, OMI, CTEH, and CST will continue to conduct air monitoring throughout the air monitoring quadrants established by EPA and TCEQ using air monitoring for NO, NO₂, NH₃, Cl₂, particulate matter, and VOCs.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Fire suppression

A site investigation in to the cause of the fire will be conducted by the Texas State Fire Marshall, with potential assistance from ATF Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Community briefing schedule for 0700 hrs on 30 May 2014.
Continue to coordinate with State and local agencies

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

TCEQ
Texas Fire Marshall
US EPA
Texas Department of Public Safety
Athens Fire Department
Henderson County Emergency Management

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.